

Minority Academic Institutions Program

The primary focus of the Minority Academic Institutions Program is to increase the capacity of MAIs to compete for, and participate in, federal programs. This is intended to remedy the discrimination that many MAIs suffered in the allocation of federal resources. There are also elements of the MAI Program that address specific minority groups in efforts to increase their access to higher education and also increase their participation in federal programs. The following Executive Orders drive the MAI Program:

- Executive Order 13125 "***Increasing Participation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Federal Programs***," June 7, 1999.
- Executive Order 13216 (Amendment to EO 13125) "***Increasing Participation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Federal Programs***," June 6, 2001.
- Executive Order 13230 "***President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans***," October 12, 2001.
- Executive Order 13256 "***President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities***," February 12, 2002.
- Executive Order 13270 "***Tribal Colleges and Universities***," July 3, 2002.
- Executive Order 13316 "***Continuance of Certain Federal Advisory Committees***," September 17, 2003. and Executive Order 13385 "***Continuance of Certain Federal Advisory Committees and Amendments to and Revocation of Other Executive Orders***," September 29, 2005.

In January 2007, the MAI Program was transferred to the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU). The transfer puts EPA's organization in line with that of many other federal agencies and allows the MAI Program to benefit from OSDBU's outreach resources. Under OSDBU's leadership the Agency held a "HBCU Meet and Greet" during National HBCU Week, developed implementation strategies for existing MOUs, assumed leadership roles on interagency groups established to increase support to HBCUs, formed a steering committee to provide internal policy guidance for Minority Academic Institutions (MAIs), and increased internal visibility of the MAI Program.

OSDBU is pushing the Agency to do "**M.O.R.E.**" with MAIs: **M**ission Implementations, **O**utreach, **R**esearch/Review, and **E**xchange. The Agency is helping MAI's to look at EPA's strategic goals to anticipate future mission needs.

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